

Distance Learning Opportunities Continue to Expand at SWOSU

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University distance learning continues to expand with new programs that will assist students in becoming more active in online courses.

Distance learning concentrates on online courses, interactive video and e-learning. The SWOSU Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning is in charge of programs such as Respondus, Canvas and Turnitin.

Marci Grant, director of the center on the Weatherford campus, said distance learning makes sure the online experience for students is on par for this century and aims toward being up-to-date for the next century.

Grant recently created a "Resources for Student Success" tab in Canvas. The resource has several links for students to access for certain questions they may have or tips on the best ways to study or how to lessen outside distractions while studying.

New students and returning students will notice that the center has updated Canvas to be more navigational and visually appealing.

Beyond the new updates and added resources, distance learning is implementing a program for at least five to six General Education courses this fall and spring semesters. The program is called Three Pillars of Learning in Undergraduate Education and is concentrated on helping involve the students more in their GE in classroom and online courses. The program has been implemented to encourage higher order thinking from students by focusing on three learning proficiencies.

"It will allow professors to better assess their students' learning growth over the semester and create goals throughout the course for students to meet," Grant said.

Another program that has been in effect at SWOSU for a brief amount of time is the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). This agreement consists of collaboration between SWOSU and other states to allow students access to other programs or courses outside of what is available to them within their area or state.

For example, some out-of-state students may obtain a full RN to BSN online nursing degree from SWOSU by utilizing the SARA program.

"We are here to help everybody and SWOSU," Grant said.